

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (currently amended) A feed device for stacks of paper or plastic material, the feed device comprising:

at least one transport unit comprising a supporting member slide for the stack and at least one transport element;

wherein the slide and the at least one transport element are not drivingly connected to one another;

a separating unit comprising at least one rotatably driven feed drum;

wherein the at least one transport unit transports the stack to the separating unit;

wherein the at least one transport unit is pretensioned in a transport direction toward the at least one feed drum such that the stack rests with pretension against the feed drum;

at least one sensor, wherein the at least one transport element is coupled to the at least one sensor that provides a switching signal for driving the at least one transport element, wherein the at least one sensor is a light barrier and wherein the switching signal is generated when a part of the slide enters a monitoring area of the at least one sensor when moving by the pretension in the transport direction;

a support unit for the stack resting on the slide, wherein the support unit rests against a side of the stack facing away from the feed drum;

wherein the support unit engages in a first engaging position the at least one transport element of the at least one transport unit and the at least one transport element and the support unit move the stack relative to the slide toward the separating unit when the switching signal is generated.

2. (original) The feed device according to claim 1, further comprising at least one spring for pretensioning the at least one transport unit.

3. (original) The feed device according to claim 2, further comprising an axle and at least one bearing slidably mounted on the axle, wherein the at least one transport unit is connected to the at least one bearing and guided by the at least one bearing on the axle.

4. (original) The feed device according to claim 3, further comprising an abutment mounted on the axle, wherein the at least one spring rests against the abutment.

5. (original) The feed device according to claim 3, wherein the spring is a pressure spring surrounding the axle.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The feed device according to claim 1 [[6]], wherein the at least one support unit has at least one bearing guided on an axle.

8. (currently amended) The feed device according to claim 1 [[6]], wherein the support unit has at least one support element that rests against [[a]] the side of the stack facing away from the feed drum.

9. (canceled)

10. (original) The feed device according to claim 1, wherein the at least one transport element is an endless circulating belt.

11. (currently amended) The feed device according to claim 1, wherein the at least one transport element is supported on the slide supporting member.

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (original) The feed device according to claim 1, wherein the feed drum is connected to a vacuum source.

15. (original) The feed device according to claim 1, wherein the feed drum has passages.

16. (canceled)

17. (new) The feed device according to claim 1, wherein the support unit is pivotable into a second disengaging position disengaged from the at least one transport element to allow insertion of a paper stack, wherein the support unit is moved by a length of the paper stack away from the feed drum before being pivoted back into the first engaging position.